

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at Page 1, line 5 and ending on Page 1, line 9 of the application as filed with the following paragraph. Please note that the section headings for Background of the Invention and Field of the Invention are being added.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

I. Field of the Invention

The invention relates to an evaporation system comprising an evaporator heated by process waste steam and a process stage heated by product vapors of the evaporator, in particular at least one further evaporator.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at Page 1, line 11 and ending on Page 1, line 24 of the application as filed with the following paragraph. Please note that the section heading for Description of Related Art is being added.

2. Description of Related Art

In order to operate evaporation systems as economically as possible, process heat obtained otherwise, for example in the form of waste steam obtained in the process, is used for heating the evaporator or the evaporators. Such process waste steams as obtained, for example, as waste steam of drier stages can, however, be used only to a limited extent since they are obtained at relatively low pressure or are mixed with air or inert gases. The condensation capacity of the evaporators heated with such process waste steams is as a rule reduced and the number of evaporator stages heated with such process waste steams and hence the efficiency of the evaporation system are greatly limited.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at Page 2, line 9 and ending on Page 2, line 11 of the application as filed with the following paragraph. Please note that the section heading for Summary of the Invention is being added.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the invention to provide an evaporation system which can be operated with process waste steam and has improved evaporation power.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at Page 4, line 1 and ending on Page 4, line 6 of the application as filed with the following paragraph. Please note that the section heading for Brief Description of the Drawing is being added.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Below, the invention is explained in more detail with reference to a drawing. The drawing shows a schematic system diagram of a multistage evaporation system which can be heated with superheated drier waste steam to which air has been added and which originates from a drier system not shown.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at Page 4, line 8 and ending on Page 4, line 22 of the application as filed with the following paragraph. Please note that the section heading for Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments is being added.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The evaporation system comprises three evaporator stages 1, 3, 5 which are each in the form of a downflow evaporator and each of which comprises a product circulation loop 7, 9 and 11 with a circulation pump 13, 15 and 17, respectively. The product to be evaporated and fed in at 19 via a buffer container 21 and a delivery pump 23 is fed into the circulation loop 7 of the first evaporator stage 1 and fed in a conventional manner via the circulation loop 7 in the upper region of the evaporator space of the evaporator stage 1. In the same way, the product to be evaporated also passes to the circulation loops 9, 11 of the evaporator stages 3, 5 via a line 25. By means of a delivery pump 27, the evaporated concentrate is removed at an outlet 29.